

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MADRID 06188 191805Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 USSS-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 PRS-01
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-----104310 191817Z /46
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1443
INFO DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T MADRID 6188

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SP
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON BOMB ATTEMPT POSSIBLE EARLIER
ATTEMPT ON THE KING.

REF: (A) MADRID 6162 (B) MADRID 6163 (DATT DTG 181724Z)

1. THE APPERENT BOMB ATTEMPT AGAINST KING JUAN CARLOS AND
PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ IN PALMA DE MALLORCA AUGUST 17
(REF A) HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE INTERNATIONAL PRESS
COVERAGE, ALMOST MORE SO THAN IN SPAIN. THE ASSOCIATED
PRESS REPORT, IN PARTICULAR-
-STATES THAT PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE WAS USED. HOWEVER A
POLICE SOURCE HAS TOLD US DYNAMITE WAS USED.
DYNAMITE HAS NOT NORMALLY BEEN USED BY GRAPO, ALTHOUGH
THIS DOESN'T RULE THEM OUT.
--STATES THAT THE BOMB DISCOVERED 1900 WAS SET
TO EXPLODE AT 1930. LEADERS OF THE SPANISH BOMB SQUAD
HAVE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT THEY DID NOT ACTUALLY SEE
THE TIMER, THE DEVICE HAD NOT YET EXPLODED WHEN
POLICE DELIBERATELY SET IT OFF AROUND 2030.
--SPECULATES THAT THE AUTHORS HOPED THE EXPLOSION
WOULD STRIKE THE ROYAL CAR, DUE TO PASS ABOUT 1930.
ANOTHER REPORT, HOWEVER, INDICATES THAT THE EXPLOSION

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WAS AIMED AT THE ROYAL YACHT DOCKED ABOUT 100 METERS
AWAY.

2. WE THINK IT WORTHWHILE, AMIDST THIS WELTER OF
SPECULATION TO POINT OUT HOW LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THIS
AFFAIR. SPANISH POLICE ARE BEING UNUSUALLY CLOSE MOUTHED
EVEN IN PRIVATE THERE IS PUBLIC ASSUMPTION THAT THE ATTEMPT EVEN

THOUGH APPARENTLY SOMEWHAT AMATEURISH, WAS AIMED AT THE KING AND SUAREZ, ALTHOUGH THE GOS HAS STILL NOT ACTUALLY CONFIRMED THIS, AND WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT THE DEVICE WAS TIMED TO THE SCHEDULE OF THE KING AND SUAREZ OR EVEN THAT IT WAS SET TO GO OFF. CONCEIVABLY, IT COULD HAVE BEEN PLACED TO CREATE NERVOUSNESS WITHOUT BEING MEANT TO KILL. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOS OFFICIAL SILENCE COULD REFLECT A DESIRE TO CALM PUBLIC CONERN. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD (REF B) THAT THERE WAS A PREVIOUS ATTEMPT AGAINST THEIR KING IN JUNE TO WHICH NO PUBLICITY WAS GIVEN. A HIGH LEVEL SPANISH ARMY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER CONFIRMED TO DAT AUGUST 19 THE EXISTANCE OF SUCH AN ATTEMPT, EXPRESSING AT THE SAME TIME HIS UNDERSTANDABLE FEARS OF THE POLITICAL CONSEUQENCES HAD EITHER ATTEMPT SUCCEDED, BUT HE DID NOT STATE THE NATURE OF THE JUNE ATTEMPT (OR THREAT?) THE AUTHORS OF EITHER OR BOTH ATTMEPTS (OR THREATS) MAY INDEED BY GRAPO, BUT WE DO NOT KENOW; AND THE SPANISH AUTHORITISES MAY NOT EITHER. STABLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON BOMB ATTEMPT POSSIBLE EARLIER ATTEMPT ON THE KING.
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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